

From: Chris Santucci/=WDC/Toyota_NY. Sent:8/20/2007 12:58 PM.
To: [-] Takezo Oba/=HINPO/TMC0@TMC0@TMCE@TOYOTA.
Cc: [-] Christopher Tinto/=WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY;Hisaaki Kato/=WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY;Jyunji Ogata/=HINPO/TMC0@TMC0;Kevin Ro/=WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY;Michiteru Kato/=HINPO/TMC0@TMC0;Seiko Takeuchi/=HINPO/TMC0@TMC0;Shinichiro Ogata/=HINPO/TMC0@TMC0.
Bcc: [-]
Subject: Re: URGENT - NHTSA to Upgrade ES350 Floor Mat Investigation.

Oba-san,

Typically we don't formally receive a copy of the opening resume. So when we became aware of the upgrade is either by fax or email. You should probably use the date Mr. Tinto was informed via email copy of the resume (8/9).

Regards,

Chris Santucci - Assistant Manager
Technical and Regulatory Affairs
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
Ofc (202) 463-6856 Cell (202) 651-1581 Fax (202) 463-8513
email: Chris_Santucci@tma.toyota.com

Note: We cannot receive attachment extensions listed below.
.exe, .com, .pif, .scr, .cmd, .bat, .vbs, .lnk, .htm, .html, .shs, or .zip

Takezo Oba/HINPO/TMC0@TMC0
08/20/2007 03:25 AM
To Chris Santucci/WDC/Toyota_NY@TOYOTA_NY
cc Jyunji Ogata/HINPO/TMC0@TMC0, Michiteru Kato/HINPO/TMC0@TMC0, Shinichiro Ogata/HINPO/TMC0@TMC0, Seiko Takeuchi/HINPO/TMC0@TMC0, Hisaaki Kato/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY, Christopher Tinto/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY, Kevin Ro/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY
Subject Re: URGENT - NHTSA to Upgrade ES350 Floor Mat Investigation

Santucci-san

As Tinto-san said, NHTSA released EA07-010 on their website last weekend. May we think that an update of open resume on their website is that TMC has received open resume officially?

Thank you very much for your support and cooperation.

Best regards,

T.Oba
CQE, TMC

----- 転送者: Takezo Oba/HINPO/TMC0 転送日: 2007/08/20 15:59 -----

宛先: Takezo Oba/HINPO/TMC0@TMC0

cc:

件名: Re: URGENT - NHTSA to Upgrade ES350 Floor Mat Investigation

----- 転送者: Shinichiro Ogata/HINPO/TMC0 転送日: 2007/08/10 08:41 -----

宛先: CTinto@tma.toyota.com

cc: AKanatani@tma.toyota.com, CSantucci@tma.toyota.com, CMullen@tma.toyota.com, DRobertson@tma.toyota.com, Dave_Zellers%TOYOTA__NY@tma.toyota.com, George_Morino%TOYOTA__NY@tma.toyota.com, hkato@tma.toyota.com, jiyunji_ogata@mail.toyota.co.jp, KRo@tma.toyota.com, Kirk_Forsht%TOYOTA__NY@tma.toyota.com, MSuzuki@tma.toyota.com, michiteru_ck@nt02.ck.toyota.co.jp, shinichiro_ogata@mail.toyota.co.jp

件名: Re: URGENT - NHTSA to Upgrade ES350 Floor Mat Investigation

Folks:

As a follow up to yesterday's email on this subject, I received an unofficial copy of the upgrade resume for our information only (attached).

I was also told to expect that this would be released on NHTSA's website potentially as early at 8/11 (Saturday).

Best Regards,
Chris

Chris Tinto

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Christopher Tinto/WDC/Toyota_NY
08/08/2007 05:00 PM

To jiyunji_ogata@mail.toyota.co.jp, Michiteru Kato/HINPO/TMC0@TMC0@TMCE@TOYOTA
cc George Morino, Dave Zellers, Kirk Forsht, shinichiro_ogata@mail.toyota.co.jp, Kevin
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hkato@tma.toyota.com, Megumi Suzuki/WDC/Toyota_NY@Toyota_NY
Subject URGENT - NHTSA to Upgrade ES350 Floor Mat Investigation

FYI - I just received a "heads up" call from NHTSA regarding the agency's intention to upgrade the Preliminary investigation (PE07-016) into the Lexus ES350 All Weather Floor Mats to an Engineering Analysis (EA).

After reviewing Toyota's submission of June 11, as well as its own independent testing and field evaluation of incidents, the agency believes that it should upgrade based on the severity of the incidents (i.e. some high-speed, wide-open-throttle complaints), coupled with its latest count of 40 complaints, 8 crashes and 12 injuries.

Although NHTSA recognizes the efforts we have already made to alert dealers and owners of the potential interference issue (when the mats are incorrectly stacked), NHTSA also believes the design of the floor mat itself (weight, cut, fit) lends itself to causing unintended pedal application even when the mat is not stacked. In further conversation, although the agency can not legally 'prescribe' a fix, they felt that slightly modifying the existing mat may help alleviate the problem.

I expressed our appreciation for the heads up, as well as encouraged future close dialogue to attempt to come to a mutually acceptable solution.

We will forward the resume as soon as it becomes available, and at that time we will also try to find out when this is likely to become public, to gauge timing constraints for Q&A preparation.

Best Regards,
Chris

Chris Tinto

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